

To the powers that be,

First, thank you for providing a forum for comments and complaints on key issues regarding communications. On the subject of mandated copyright protection on HDTV, DTV, digital video transfers, etc.; it would be another grave tragedy in our legal system to force a standard of control upon the populace without their consent or control. The market place is fully capable of finding a solution to the issue of copyright protection if given the time and opportunity. The copyright owners have a right to protect their investments, however, they are seeking a quick-and-dirty, good-for-them, don't-question-it fixall for this issue. They would rather the consumer have to play by their rules and be subject to their limitations rather than allow the consumers to agree on what is fair and good. I believe it is the job of the FCC and all government branches to protect the public(consumers) first. Those who abuse and pirate copyrights should be sought when and where they appear. By approving a copyright protection standard, the baby will be thrown out with the bath water(an overused cliché to be sure). The consumer has an inherant right to use a product or information purchase any way they choose as long as it does not violate Congress approved copyright laws. Another argument is that any technology standard, legislated or no, will eventually be hacked by individuals for either legitimate or illegal purposes, DMCA notwithstanding. There is always going to be a work-around for those determined enough to find it. Why then should the regular consumer be penalized and limited when the resourceful person is just going to work around this anyway? Government legislated fixes such as this will not solve the problems, it will only take liberties away from the public. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely Yours,

Joseph C. Baker III